



CATAWBA COUNTY

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Department of Social Services

PRESS RELEASE/PSA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Children's Advocacy Center Honored

On June 18th, the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Catawba County was presented with the 2007 Champions of Children Award. Victim Advocate, Adrienne Opdyke, (seen at right in the photo with Libby Throckmorton of the Catawba County Partnership for Children), accepted the award. Presented by the Partnership for Children, the award recognizes efforts to improve the lives of young children and their families through collaboration, advocacy, and resourcefulness.



The CAC is a collaborative effort among local agencies that deal with the social, emotional, legal and medical issues of child abuse. They have advocated for systematic change, to improve the response and support for child victims of abuse and their families. Among their many accomplishments, the CAC has successfully implemented a child-friendly environment for conducting interviews, reducing the re-traumatization child victims often face when reporting the incident of abuse and a specially designed examination room that provides an alternative to the emergency room. The CAC is a place where the family, as well as the child can receive support,

and where the multidisciplinary team can meet and collaborate for the best possible outcome for the victims. They provide specialized staff such as a pediatric nurse trained in forensic exams and a full time victim's

advocate. In addition, they have established an outreach prevention program, Stewards of Children, aimed at training adults to recognize, report, and prevent child sexual abuse.

The Catawba County Partnership for Children is a local non-profit agency that is a collaborative effort funded primarily by Smart Start. Their goal is to ensure that young children have access to the resources they need, so they will enter school healthy and ready to learn.

For more information about the Children's Advocacy Center or to find out what you can do to prevent child abuse, call (828) 465-9296 or visit www.catawbakids.com.